

Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Drug Abuse Trends Committee
Tuesday, October 12, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Schimel (Chair), Mike Bohren, Julianne Klimetz, Sam Benedict, Jim Jeskewitz, Chuck Wood, Mike DeMares, Susan Andrews, Michelle Trussoni, Claudia Roska, John Wirkus, Lee Wipfli, Sara Carpenter, Kathy Cooke, Karl Held, Greg Wieczorek, Sandra Lybert, Dawn Rollings.
Absent: Mickey Gabbert, Kathy Becker, Jim Haessly, Mary Lynn Murphy

Also Present: Kristin Hasbrook, Cindy Maiorella, Karl Held, Lynda Biedrzycki, Kris Klenz, Steve Sansone, Jean LaTour, Rebecca Luczaj, Karen Phillips.

Welcome & Overview of Committee Purpose – Brad Schimel

Schimel reviewed the purpose of the Drug Abuse Trends Ad Hoc Committee: To explore current drug abuse trends affecting the criminal justice system within Waukesha County, including prescription drug abuse, to determine if current programming addresses these needs and whether sufficient resources for offenders are available to effectively address the problem.

Introductions – All

Each member and other attendees present gave a brief self-introduction.

Video Clip: Wisconsin Public Television – “Heroin in Wisconsin” (July 9, 2010)

The video clip shown focused on the growing heroin problem in Rock County, Wisconsin.

Presentation: Current Drug Trends in Waukesha County – Captain Chuck Wood, Waukesha County Sheriff’s Department Metro Drug Enforcement Unit

Wood discussed the growing opiate/heroin problem in Waukesha County and the challenges it presents to law enforcement. He noted that in Waukesha County, young people are often first exposed to diverted pharmaceuticals/synthetic opiates (e.g. OxyContin, Vicodin) before progressing to heroin use. Wood distributed and reviewed a handout titled *Drug Threat in Relation to Drug Trends*, dated October 12, 2010. Included in the handout was a chart showing the number of individuals arrested during the takedown of a heroin drug ring in 2009 (*Operation GREAT WHITE*), and 2000-2009 drug arrest/seizure statistics.

In addition to the threat of opiates and heroin, other drugs such as marijuana and powder cocaine are plentiful. This year the metro drug unit has spent much time and resources on confiscation of high-grade marijuana in Waukesha County. A takedown of one of the largest indoor marijuana growing operations occurred in the City of Brookfield. There has been an increased amount of ecstasy (MDMA) seized, almost 700 doses already this year, which may indicate a possible uptick in club drugs including GHB (date rape drug). Synthetic marijuana (e.g. K2, Spice, potpourri) is now sold legally but possible new legislation will address this growing issue.

In summation, opiates and heroin are the greatest threat, by nature of the drug and the high number of overdoses. The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin is now operating in Waukesha, distributing needles,

cook kits and Narcan (naloxone, used to counter the effects of opioid overdose) to heroin users. Lengthy discussion ensued on this issue.

In conclusion, Wood played a video made by TMJ4, "Dying to Get High", based on a ride-along with the Waukesha County Metro Drug Unit during the takedown of a heroin ring (*Operation GREAT WHITE*).

Presentation: 2009 Waukesha County Drug Overdose Statistics – Dr. Lynda Biedrzycki, Waukesha County Medical Examiner

Klenz reviewed the handout titled *Waukesha County Medical Examiner's Office – Drug Overdose Statistics 2003 through approx. June 2010*. Over the past seven years, the Medical Examiner's Office has seen a steady increase in deaths attributed to overdose. From 2003 to June 2010, a total of 200 deaths were attributed to overdose. In the 19 and under age group, the most common drugs detected were methadone, opiates including heroin/morphine, oxycodone, cocaine and alprazolam. Demographically, the spike in overdose deaths has occurred in the middle-age group ranges. Most fatalities are poly-pharmaceutical users, with more than one substance playing a role; it is rare when only one substance is found. Of the aforementioned 200 total deaths, opiates or opioids (morphine, heroin, fentanyl, oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone or a combination) were present in 76% of those fatalities; the manner of death has been determined 70% accident, 20% suicide, and 10% undetermined. The numbers are a direct reflection of what the metro drug unit is witnessing. Biedrzycki noted the statistics represent only the direct drug-related deaths. Drugs and/or alcohol often play a role in motor vehicle deaths or violent deaths from other means.

Presentation: 2009 Waukesha School District Student Survey Results Regarding Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Sansone provided background of the Waukesha School District student survey, done every 3-5 years since 1987. About 5000 students from the Waukesha public and private schools were involved in the most recent survey. Sansone briefly discussed a sampling of statistics as compared to a national study (referred to as the Michigan study) with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. With regard to alcohol use, Waukesha ranks somewhat better than the national average. However, marijuana use in the 11-12 grades exceeds the national average. Sansone expressed concerns about the increasing use of cocaine, heroin and prescription medication among Waukesha students, as indicated by the survey.

Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting – All

Suggestions for future agenda items included the following items:

- Guest speakers:
 - Judge or CJCC coordinator from a county with an existing drug court
 - Expert speakers in the fields related to drug addiction
 - Drug treatment court participant
- Available funding sources
- Involvement of the media
- Legal issues, best practices and methodology for drug treatment court and programming
- Methodology of alcohol treatment court compared to drug treatment court and the mental health overlap
- Prevention initiatives

Next Meeting Date:

Schimmel thanked everyone for attending this meeting. The next meeting date was not scheduled at this time.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

